The Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund

What is the Military Family Assistance Fund? Act 151 of the 2005 Legislature provides for the establishment of the Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA fund) under the state Department of Social Services. The purpose of the MFA fund is to help families defray the costs of such necessities as food, housing and medical services that become difficult to afford when a wage-earner has temporarily left civilian employment to be placed on active military duty.

Who may apply for assistance from the MFA fund? Any Louisiana resident who is a member of a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard and who has served a minimum of thirty consecutive days of active duty or active state service since September 11, 2001 may apply for assistance from the MFA fund. Immediate family members of eligible solders may apply on behalf of the soldier.

What will the MFA fund pay for? The MFA fund will pay need-based claims of family members for the costs of such necessities as food, housing and medical services that become difficult to afford when a wage-earner has temporarily left civilian employment to be placed on active military duty. All other resources, such as insurance, must be exhausted before the MFA fund can be accessed.

How often can someone apply to the MFA fund? Soldiers may apply for up to \$10,000 for one claim per active duty order in a twelve month period. In addition, in extenuating circumstances the MFA fund will pay a lump sum award, not to exceed \$700, for a service-related death or injury resulting in a substantial residual disability.

Why is the MFA fund available only to Reservists and National Guard? What about the regular armed forces? The MFA fund was created to address the pay gap experienced by Reservists and National Guardsmen when they are called up to active duty. Their civilian salaries are placed on hold while they are deployed, and they receive military salaries that are often substantially less than their civilian salaries. This can create financial hardship for their families. There are no decreases in salaries when members of the regular armed forces are deployed.

How can I donate to the MFA fund? Donations can be mailed directly to the MFA fund or by checking the appropriate box on your individual or corporate state tax return. Donations to the MFA fund are state income tax deductible. To donate directly to the fund, please make your check or money order payable to LA Military Family Assistance Fund and mail to:

LA Military Family Assistance Fund c/o Department of Social Services Post Office Box 2784 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2784

How can I apply for assistance from the MFA fund? To apply for assistance, please submit a completed application to the fund administrator at the LA Department of Veterans Affairs. Applications are available at all Veterans Affairs parish service offices and can be found online at the following web sites:

www.vetaffairs.com

Once you have completed the form, please mail it and the requested documentation to the fund administrator at the address below. You may fax your application, but you must follow up by mailing the application with the original signature.

Military Family Assistance Fund Administrator LA Dept. of Veterans Affairs Post Office Box 94095 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095 Phone: 225-922-0500 / Fax: 225-922-0511

LOUISIANA MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BOARD MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND

IMPORTANT NOTICES AND INSTRUCTIONS

I. BASIC INFORMATION

- Financial assistance from the Fund is available only to qualified military personnel and their families.
- 2. Financial assistance from the Fund is available for needs arising on and after September 11, 2001 that are directly related to the military service of qualified military personnel.
- All the money in the Fund comes from voluntary donations by Louisiana citizens, civic organizations, and businesses.
- 4. The Fund is a payer of last resort. This means that an applicant must exhaust all other sources to meet financial needs before applying for assistance from the Fund. These sources include insurance, all available military programs and the American Red Cross. An applicant is not required to seek financial assistance from family members or churches before applying for assistance from the Fund. An applicant is not required to apply for federal assistance programs such as WIC and food stamps before applying for assistance from the Fund.
- 5. To receive assistance from the Fund, an applicant must show an actual, provable need.

II. THE APPLICATION

- An application for assistance from the Fund must be on an official form. You can get the form application from certain websites or from the Veterans Service Officer located in your parish. The websites where this form is available are: www.vetaffairs.com.
- 2. Provide all information requested by the form. Do not leave blank spaces. If a request for information does not apply to you, write "Does Not Apply." If the correct answer to a question is "None." write "None."
- 3. Each answer should be typed or printed legibly in blue ink. An application will not be denied for failure to type or legibly print answers in blue ink, but processing the application may take longer and delay assistance from the Fund.
- 4. All applications must be on behalf of qualified military personnel and their families. This is why the application requires the name of the qualified military personnel and the relationship between the qualified military personnel and the applicant.
- 5. The application must be signed by the person who completes the application. It is not necessary that the qualified military personnel sign the application unless the qualified military personnel is the one who completes the application.
- 6. If someone other than an immediate family member of the qualified military personnel completes the application, a power of attorney must be submitted with the application. The power of attorney must show that the person completing the application has been given the power to do so by either the qualified military personnel or an immediate family member of the qualified military personnel.
- 7. It is the responsibility of the person completing and signing the application to ensure that all information on the application is accurate. Any person who knowingly makes a false representation in submitting a claim or knowingly fails to disclose a material fact in order to obtain money from the Fund or to increase the amount of money obtained from the Fund is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of up to double the amount claimed. Each false representation or failure to disclose a material fact is a separate offense.
- 8. If you have any questions about the application, you may contact the Third Party Administrator at (225) 922-0500.

III. THE PROCESS

- 1. A determination to approve or disapprove the application, request additional information or documentation regarding the application, or to meet with the applicant will be made within 30 days of the receipt of the completed application for assistance.
- 2. An application may be denied if the qualified military person is not in good standing with the appropriate military unit at the time the application is submitted or the claim payment is made.
- 3. The identity of applicants and their related qualified military personnel is confidential unless waived. However, once an application is approved, the identity of the applicant and their related qualified military personnel and the amount approved is public record.
- 4. If you have any questions about the process, you may contact the Third Party Administrator at (225) 922-0500.

Louisiana Military Family Assistance Program Application

Please mail this form to:
Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, ATTN: MFA Administrator, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804-9095

Please complete this form in its entirety. The information will be used to assess our ability to assist you.

R.S. 46:120 All awards are need based

Funds are for necessary expenses incurred or to be incurred. Necessary expense created or will create an undue hardship. Undue hardship must be directly related to activation of military member.

Name	Relationship to service meml	per	e-mail	
Address				
Cell Phone	Home Phone		Work Phone_	
Name/Rank of Service Member			Date of Activ	ation
Branch of Service	Unit			
Service members pre-deployment employer,				
Number of children in household	Ages	Special n	eeds?	
Does applicant have a personal or business relationship v	with any employee of the La. Departm	ent of Vetera	ns Affairs Yes	□ No □
Please Attach documentation in suppo ☐ Copy of Current Mil/Depend ID ☐ Proof of Res	rt of amount claimed idency (State taxes, DEERS, etc.)	П в	nais as athas actimate of s	anat .
		_	pair or other estimate of one of the pair or other estimate of one of the pair	
Please signCurrent Leav	ve & Earnings Statements (civ./mil.)	ш	ner (specify)	
By my signature, I authorize access to DEERS or other privacy information for verification purpose. If eligible to receive funds, I certify these funds will be used for the reasons indicated above. I understand the funds may be paid directly to the service provider. I promise to repay the MFA fund if I receive payments from another source resulting from this need. I understand that willfully and knowingly providing false information on this application could result in a fine.				
SIGNATURE:		Date		
For Committee Use Only				
Approved: Date:		Denie	ed Date:	
Received and reviewed by			Date	
Sent to Fund Committee/Reason			Date	
Committee Action			Date	